4 PART MINI-SERIES
AMBUSH BUG
4
75¢
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U.K. 35p
SEPT. 85
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SCABBARD
RETURNS FROM THE DEAD IN THE STORY WE JUST HAD TO CALL
WHOOPS"
1935
50
1985

OH, HI!

WELCOME TO OUR ALL-RELATIVES ISSUE! I'M PHYMATA AMERICANA, BETTER KNOWN AS... AMBUSH BUG!

SURPRISED?

OH, DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THAT THING. IT'S JUST MY PROTHORAX.

LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MYSELF. I'M FROM THE FAMILY PHYMATIDAE AND WE'RE QUITE THE CRAZY BUNCH. ALTHOUGH WE'RE A TREE-DWELLING CLAN, THAT'S NEVER STOPPED US FROM STOMPIN' OUR FEET ON A SATURDAY NIGHT. IN FACT, WE'RE A COMMON PARTY ANIMAL HERE IN THE STATES, BUT DON'T TELL THAT TO AUNT EUGENIA!

AMBUSH BUG (PHYMATA AMERICANA)

HEAD AND PROTHORAX OF AMBUSH BUG

SHE LIVES WITH UNCLE OTTO IN THE REDWOOD FOREST, VERY HOITY-TOITY, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. ONE TIME, COUSIN EARL ROY -- YOU MAY HAVE SEEN HIM LAST FALL ON AN EPISODE OF "WILD KINGDOM" -- HE TOOK HIS BRIDE WALTA TO MEET AUNT EUGENIA, AND DOESN'T WALTA COME RIGHT OUT AND MENTION AUNT EUGENIA'S INHERITANCE! WHOO-EE!

OH, HEY! THERE'S MY BROTHER-IN-LAW!

HIS NAME'S AMBUSH BUG, TOO! IT'S REALLY CONFUSING AT FAMILY GATHERINGS AND I'M ALWAYS GETTING HIS MAIL. ONE TIME I GOT THIS FIVE-FOOT INFLATE-A-DATE AND I'M, LIKE, ALL OF 8.5 MILLIMETERS, Y'KNOW. AND MY MOTHER SAID RIGHT OFF, "WELL, I'LL BET THAT BELONGS TO IRWIN!"

SO ANYHOO, THAT'S IT FOR ME. NOW I'M GOING TO TURN OVER THIS ALL-RELATIVES ISSUE TO MRS. FLEMING, THE MOTHER OF OUR REGULAR WRITER.

ANGIE?

AMBUSH BUG (IRWIN SCHWABICUS)

HEAD AND NECK OF AMBUSH BUG

DID--DID THAT COCKROACH JUST SAY MY NAME?

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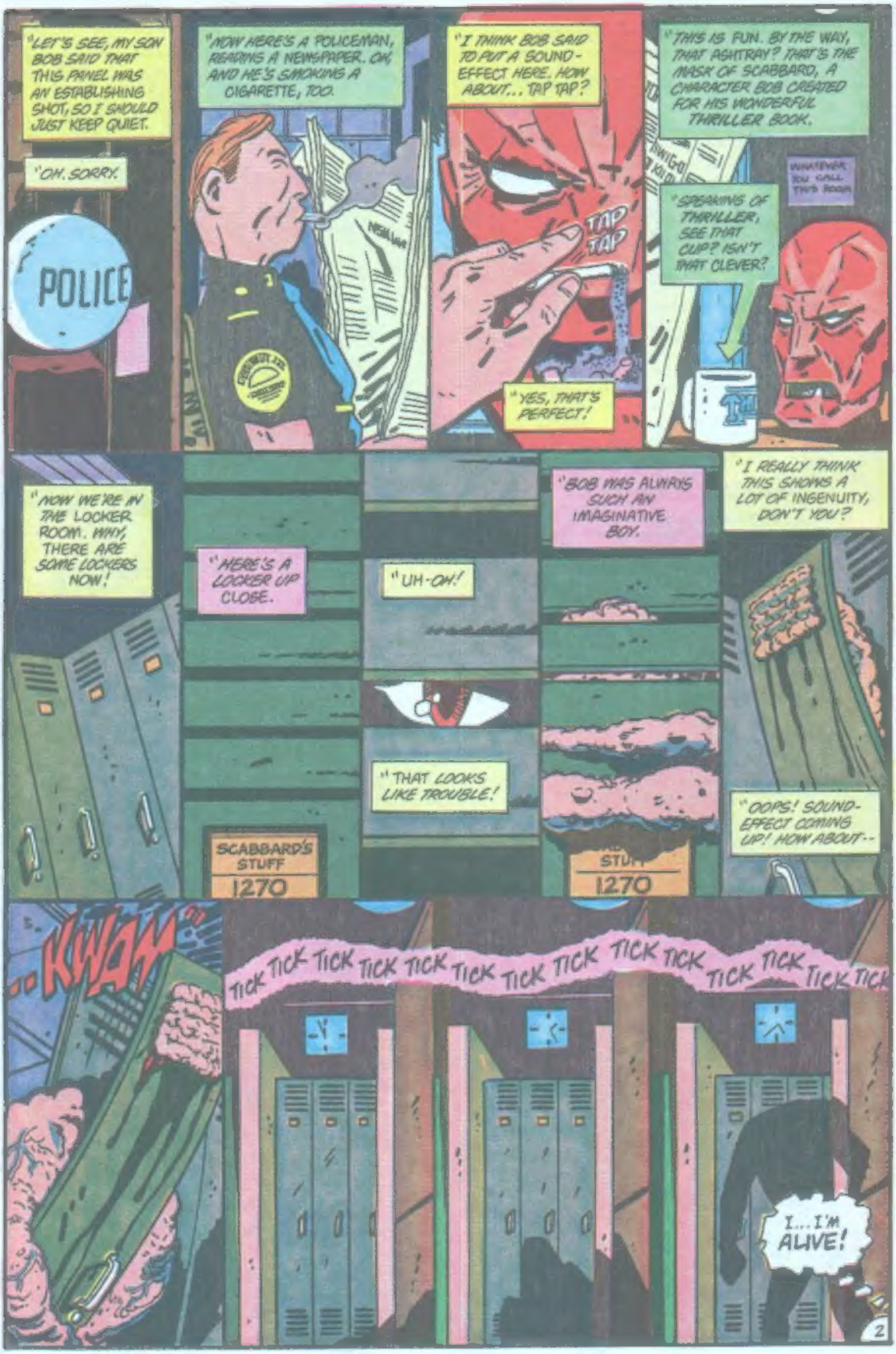
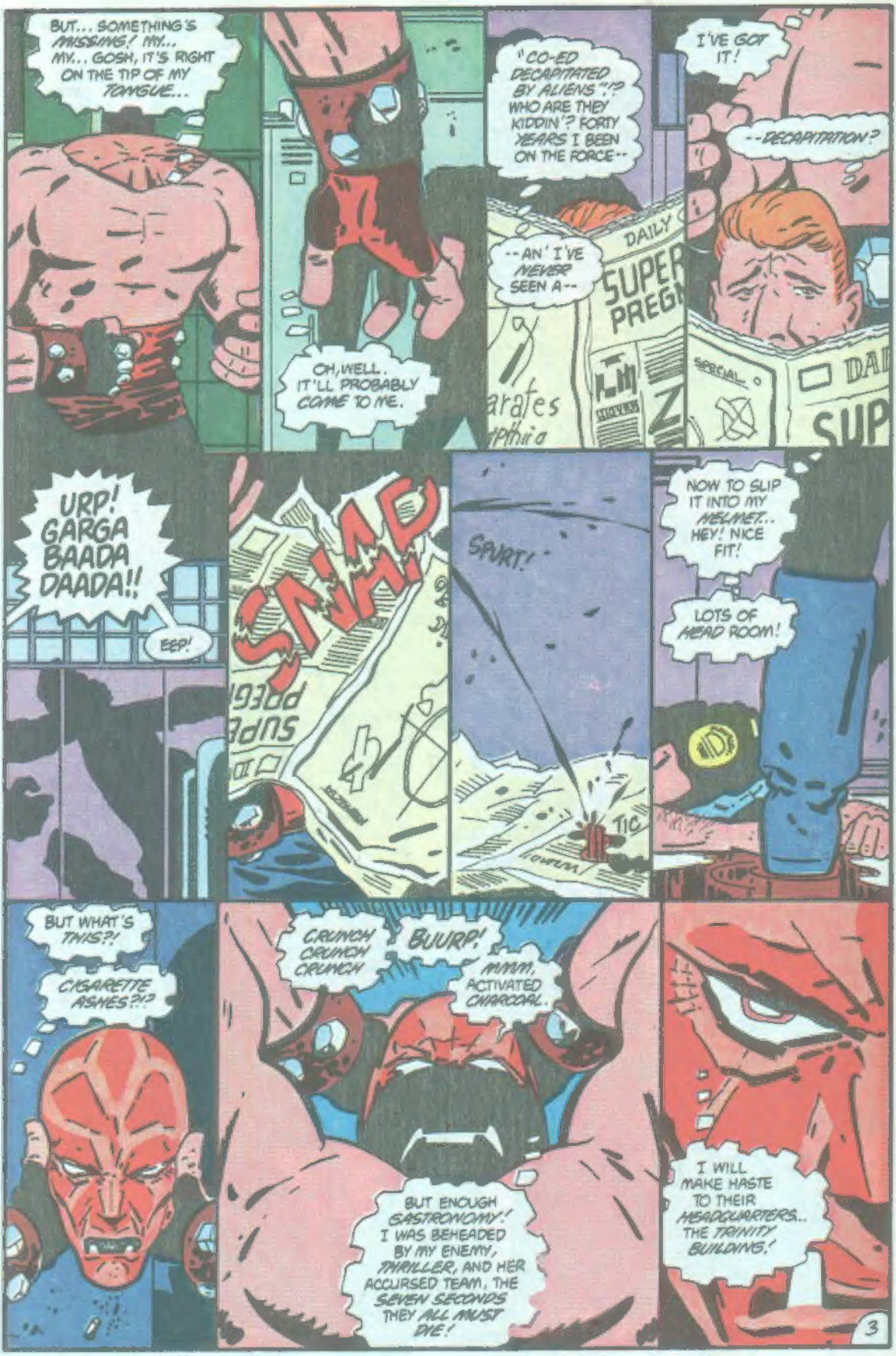

"LET'S SEE, MY SON BOB SAID THAT THIS PANEL WAS AN ESTABLISHING SHOT, SO I SHOULD JUST KEEP QUIET.
"OH. SORRY.
POLICE
"NOW HERE'S A POLICEMAN, READING A NEWSPAPER. OH, AND HE'S SMOKING A CIGARETTE, TOO.
"I THINK BOB SAID TO PUT A SOUND-EFFECT HERE. HOW ABOUT... TAP TAP?
TAP TAP
"YES, THAT'S PERFECT!
"THIS IS FUN. BY THE WAY, THAT ASHTRAY? THAT'S THE MASK OF SCABBARD, A CHARACTER BOB CREATED FOR HIS WONDERFUL THRILLER BOOK.
WHATEVER YOU CALL THIS BOOK
"SPEAKING OF THRILLER, SEE THAT CUP? ISN'T THAT CLEVER?
"NOW WE'RE IN THE LOCKER ROOM. WHY, THERE ARE SOME LOCKERS NOW!
"HERE'S A LOCKER UP CLOSE.
"UH-OH!
"BOB WAS ALWAYS SUCH AN IMAGINATIVE BOY.
"I REALLY THINK THIS SHOWS A LOT OF INGENUITY, DON'T YOU?
"THAT LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE!
SCABBARD'S STUFF
1270
1270
"OOPS! SOUND-EFFECT COMING UP! HOW ABOUT--
KWAM
TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK
I... I'M ALIVE!
2


BUT... SOMETHING'S MISSING! MY... MY... GOSH, IT'S RIGHT ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE...
OH, WELL. IT'LL PROBABLY COME TO ME.
"CO-ED DECAPITATED BY ALIENS"!? WHO ARE THEY KIDDIN'? FORTY YEARS I BEEN ON THE FORCE--
--AN' I'VE NEVER SEEN A--
DAILY
I'VE GOT IT!
--DECAPITATION?
SPECIAL
URP! GARGA BAADA DAADA!!
EEP!
SNAP
SPURT!
TIC
NOW TO SLIP IT INTO MY HELMET... HEY! NICE FIT!
LOTS OF HEAD ROOM!
BUT WHAT'S THIS?!
CIGARETTE ASHES?!?
CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH
BUURP!
MMM, ACTIVATED CHARCOAL.
BUT ENOUGH GASTRONOMY! I WAS BEHEADED BY MY ENEMY, THRILLER, AND HER ACCURSED TEAM, THE SEVEN SECONDS THEY ALL MUST DIE!
I WILL MAKE HASTE TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS.. THE TRINITY BUILDING!
3

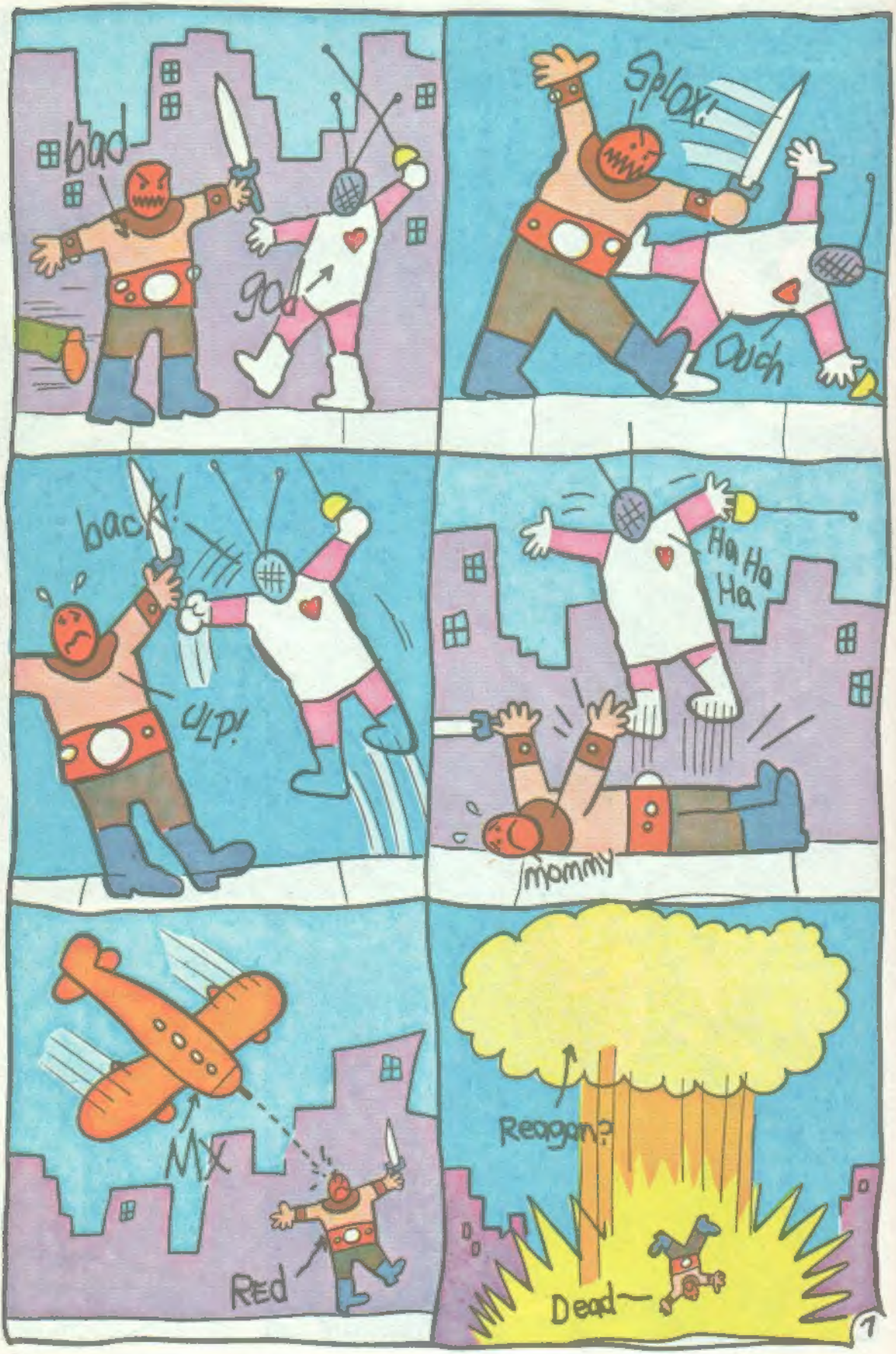
SUSHI-TERIA SOUTH
* MEANWHILE... --JULIE
THREE DERMATOLOGISTS I WENT TO! AND THEN IT STARTED TO SPREAD!!
AND IT WASN'T ONLY THE PAIN AND ITCHING. THERE WAS THE SMELL...
CHECK, PLEASE.
SO--CHOMP CHOMP-- I FINALLY CLEARED UP-- CHOMP CHOMP--
--BUT THEN MY ATHLETE'S FOOT KICKED IN, AND TALK ABOUT STENCH...
CHECK, PLEASE.
AHHHM. IT'S NO WONDER THAT ALL OF THESE PEOPLE ARE LEAVING.
I HATE TO PICK NITS, BUT I DON'T THINK THIS FISH HAS BEEN COOKED PROPERLY.
coincidence
(Kō-in-sə-dəns)
n. ① a remarkable occurrence of events, ideas, etc., at the same time or in the same way, apparently by mere accident.
② a cheap plot gimmick.
KANHAM
THUD THUD
THUD
GULP
POP
KABLAM
4
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

RUN!
HAUL!
TEAR!
GAL LOP!
ZOOM!
RIP!
CANTER!
SCRAM!
WING IT!
WAS IT...
SOMETHING I SAID?
DAMN! NO ONE IN THIS CITY WILL STOP TO GIVE YOU DIRECTIONS!!
SCOOT!
TROT!
WHIZ!
MAKE TRACKS!
SPEED!
SCURRY!
SCRAM!
LOPE!
CREEPS!
PEOPLE ARE SO MUCH NICER ON THE WEST COAST.
NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN HIM, HOWARD, DO YOU STILL WANT TO JUMP HIM?
JUDAS PRIEST!!
HE'S BIGGER THAN MY WIFE!!
NO, MA'AM. IF HE'S GOT A KNIFE IN HIS BACK, YOU WANT THE MORGUE.
NATIONAL GUARD
"IN GUARD WE TRUST"
AND MEANWHILE, AT THE LOCAL COMIC BOOK SHOP...
"HERE IT IS... THRILLER #4! WHOA! WATCH OUT FOR THAT-- HELICOPTER BLADE--
!--IT JUST CUT SCABBARD'S HEAD OFF! BUT... WHERE THE HECK AM I GONNA FIND A HELICOPTER?
THWAK!
YUCK! WHO WRITES THIS STUFF?
THRILLER
5

HEY! THIS AIN'T THE PUBLIC LIBRARY!
CAN IT, BUB! I'M NO SLOBBERING FAN! I'M A PRO!!
GASP! CATCH THE BOOK!! IT'S A COLLECTOR'S ITEM!!
POP!
POP!
HI! DOES THAT FRENCH NUMBER COME IN PINK?
ARNIE'S ALL-NIGHT ARMOR SHOPPE
HELLO. U.S. MARINES, KEVIN SPEAKING.
PARDON ME, MA'AM?
NO. YOU'LL WANT THE MORGUE.
I SWEAR TO YOU, MAN, ON A STACK OF BIBLES! I DON'T KNOW! I REALLY, REALLY DON'T!
GIVE ME DIRECTIONS OR DIE, DOG!
OKAY! OKAY!
UH...ER... YOU TAKE THE...IND TRAIN...
...OR IS IT THE IRT...?
...TO ...UH... THE 7TH AVENUE SHUTTLE...
HOBOY!
EN GARDE, M'SIEU!
YOU DARE TO CHALLENGE ME, FRENCHMAN?
OUI, OUI, MANEUR!

Dear Julie,
Keith is down with a 24-hour virus that you needed the next page right away and I didn't know what else to do, so I had our son Kyle draw it. I hope I did the right thing.
Sincerely,
Ana

P.S. Kyle would like his original page back as soon as possible, so he can sell it at the NYcon


bad
go!
SPLOX!
Ouch
back!
ULP!
Ha Ha Ha
mommy
MX
Red
Reagan?
Dead—

SKRASH
OWGLASS-SHARPYOWCH!
ARE YOU SO EAGER TO DIE THAT YOU WOULD LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE TO PREVENT ME FROM FINDING THE TRINITY BUILDINGS?
WHAT'S THE ADDRESS?
666 FIFTH--
--AVENUE?
OH, GEE, THIS IS SO EMBARRRSSING!
I'LL TELL YA WHAT, PAL. LET ME PUT YOU IN A CAB; I'LL TIP THE DRIVER--
UH... WELL...
...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS...
...EXCEPT TO COME RIGHT OUT AND SAY IT.
I'M IN THE WRONG BOOK!
THE WRONG BOOK?
YES. I THOUGHT THIS WAS THRILLER!
BUT YOU GO ON WITH WHATEVER YOU WERE DOING.
IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
JERK.
8

?

UH

OH

WHERE'D HE GO?

UH... I DON'T KNOW, JULIE. HE WAS SUPPOSED TO FIGHT THE BUG FOR THE WHOLE 23 PAGES!

BESIDES, HE'S BOB'S CHARACTER!

YOU CAN'T PIN THIS ON ME, KEITH! I DIDN'T TELL YOU TO USE HIM!

LOOK, I DON'T CARE WHOSE FAULT IT WAS! IF WE DON'T COME UP WITH SOMETHING FAST, ALL OF OUR READERS ARE GOING TO GO BACK TO READING MARVELS!

YOU TWO HAVE ONE PANEL TO COME UP WITH A NEW STORY!! AND IT BETTER BE PRETTY DOGGONED FUNNY!!!!

WELL??

KEITH?

UMMM...

FLEMING?

HMMM...

WELL, SOMEONE BETTER GO OUT THERE AND SEE IF WE HAVE ANY READERS LEFT!

UH, YEAH, JULIE. THEY'RE STILL HERE.

SO WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?

GUYS.

HOW ABOUT... IF THE BUG... UHH...

MAYBE HE COULD.. NAH.

WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS ...NOPE. NO GOOD.

WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT AM I THINKING FOR? I DON'T GET PAID FOR PLOTTING!

NOW I'M GETTING MAD! WHAT DO THEY DO WHEN THIS HAPPENS ON TELEVISION?

BUG? WILL YOU DO THE HONORS?

SURE! 'SCUSE ME, FLEM.

PRESTO! YOU WANT THE BACKGROUND MUSIC?

THAT'D BE NICE.

PLEASE STAND BY

THE BLUEST SKIES YOU'VE EVER SEEN, IN SEATTLE. AND THE HILLS, THE GREENEST GRA

BUT WE STILL NEED AN IDEA.

PLEASE STAND BY

:SNAP:

PLEASE STAND BY

OOPS! THERE GOES MY SIGN!

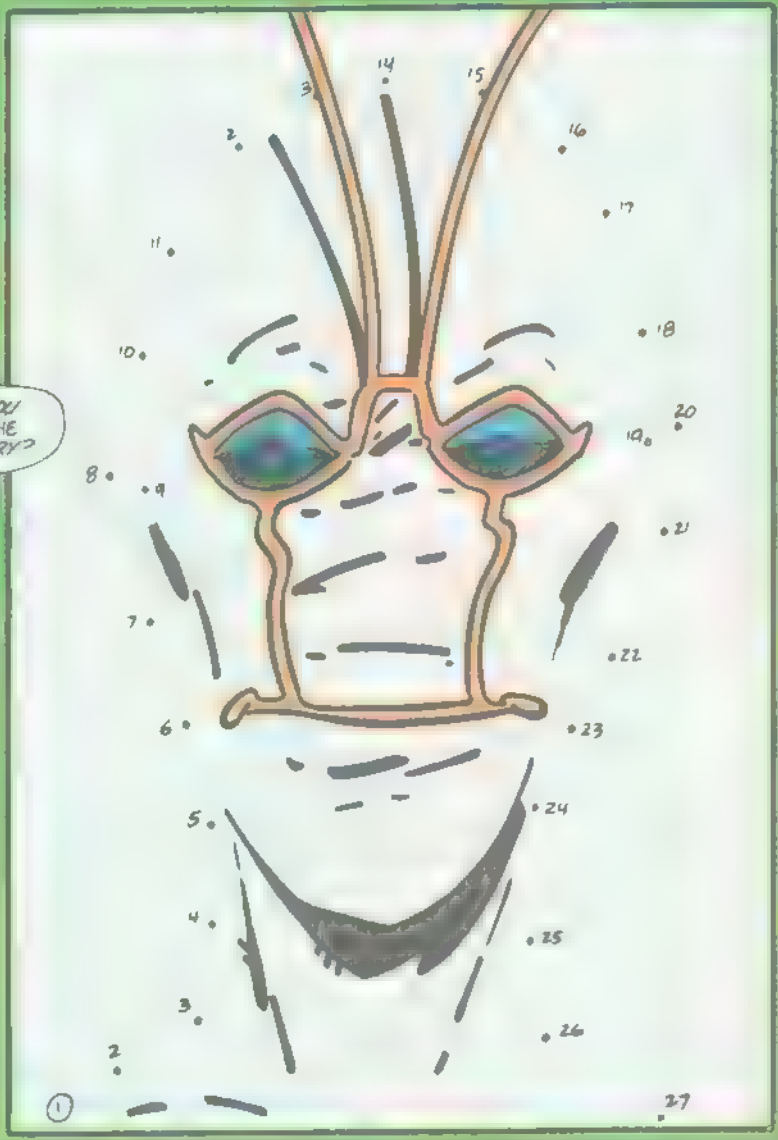
HEY!

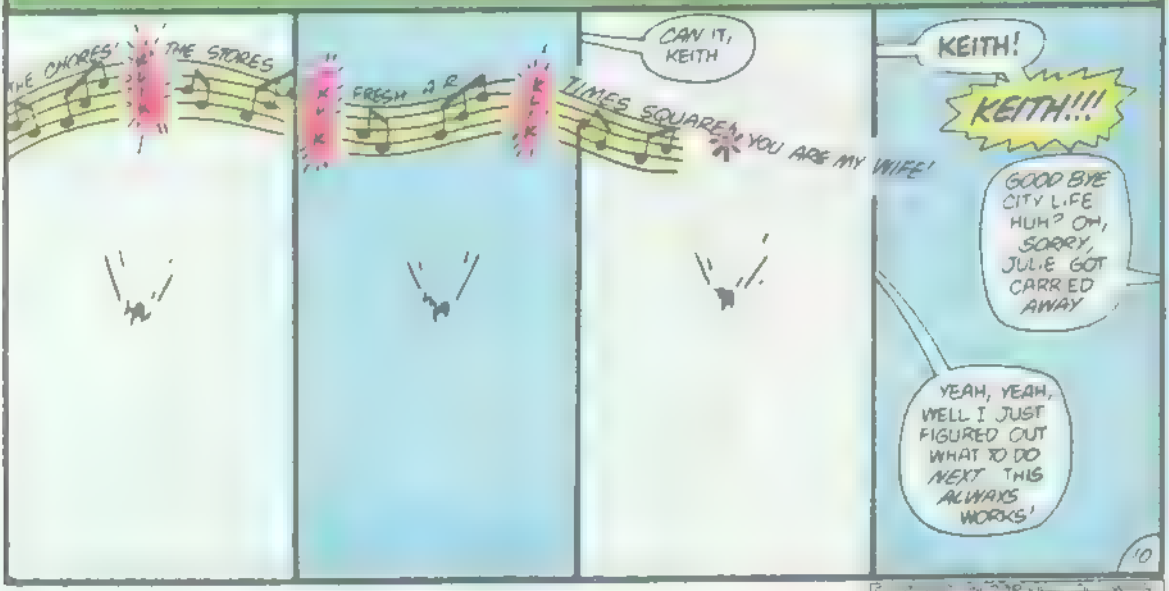
I'VE GOT AN IDEA! HOW ABOUT...

PROFESSOR SCRIBB'S MYSTERY PICTURE

INSTRUCTIONS

DONE





THE DEATH OF
AMBUSH BUG
LAST ISSUE!
D.L.R.
NOT A HOAX!
NOT AN IMAGINARY TALE!
NOT A DREAM SEQUENCE!
NOT AN ALTERNATE UNIVERSE!
HONESTLY! HE'S AS DEAD AS A MACKEREL!
UH-UH
NO WAY!
FORGET IT!
THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE.

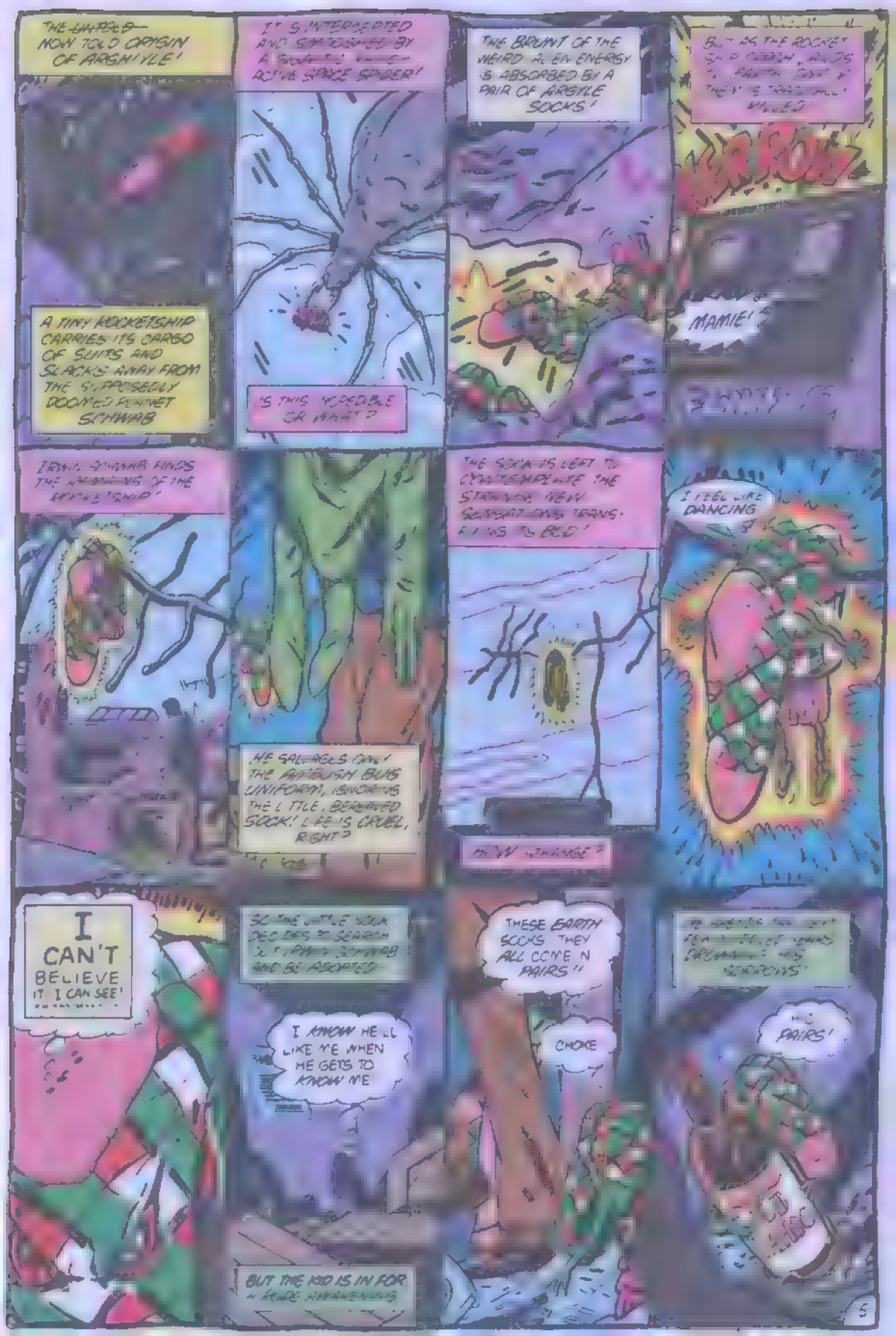
IN

"HARD SOCKS"

OBONOBOYOBOY' GIRLS DEATH KILL LOVE HATE COEDS BLIND DATE ALL THE WAY SLICE STAB SHOWERCURTAIN
HE'S A REGULAR
ADULTS $4.50
CHILDREN $2.00
SHOWING
HELL
MEOW
OHHH' LOOK AT THE LITTLE PUSSYCAT!
HERE IT COMES
C'MERE, KITTY'
KITTY KITTY KITTY
RRRR
JH
KITTY?
IT TOOK HIS SOCKS.
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, LIEUTENANT THERE'S A CREATURE LOOSE IN THE CITY--
THAT STEAL'S SOCKS' EXACTLY
I JUST CAN'T TAKE T, SIR' FIRST YOU'RE MAULED BY A GIANT KOALA
.. AND NOW THIS!
STEADY MAN NO ONE SAID THIS JOB WAS GOING TO BE EASY!

RACE'S WORLD'S FINEST LAUNDRY
WHAT IF I DIED?
OR WHAT IF I GOT KIDNAPPED BY ARABS?
OR. WHAT IF. WHAT IF RATS CAME AND ATE ME?
ONE SOCK?
HUH MOM? WHAT ABOUT THAT?
WE'LL SEE, DEAR
I KNOW I HAD TWO WHEN I CAME IN HERE
WHAT IF ME AND THIS GUY GET MARRIED? HUH MOM?
I'S GOTTA BE HERE
SURE THAT'S WHAT I ALWAYS SAY
WHAT IF THAT SOCK STEALS MY MONEY, MOM?
HEY! STOP!! THIEF!! THAT'S MY SOCK!
YOU PERVERT!
I PAID HALF OF $1.79 FOR THAT SOCK!
I'LL BET THIS CREEP HAS ALL MY LOOSE SOCKS!
MAYBE I'LL EVEN GET BACK MY MISSING UNDIES!
SPECIAL
BETTER NOT GET MY HOPES TOO HIGH
ZAP!!
WOOOOSH
WOW
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO EM
13

SO WHAT ABOUT IT, READER? COULD THAT REALLY BE WHAT HAPPENS TO LOST SOCKS?
?
MAYBE EVEN TO YOUR LOST SOCKS?
THIS IS MISSION CONTROL. EVERYTHING IS GO
I HAVE A PERFECTION ON THE MY-YLO TON IF I MAY. I GOTTA SIX TARGET
MAINTAINING SPEED THROUGH THE ...TED SLIP-STREAM
VROOM
LOOO

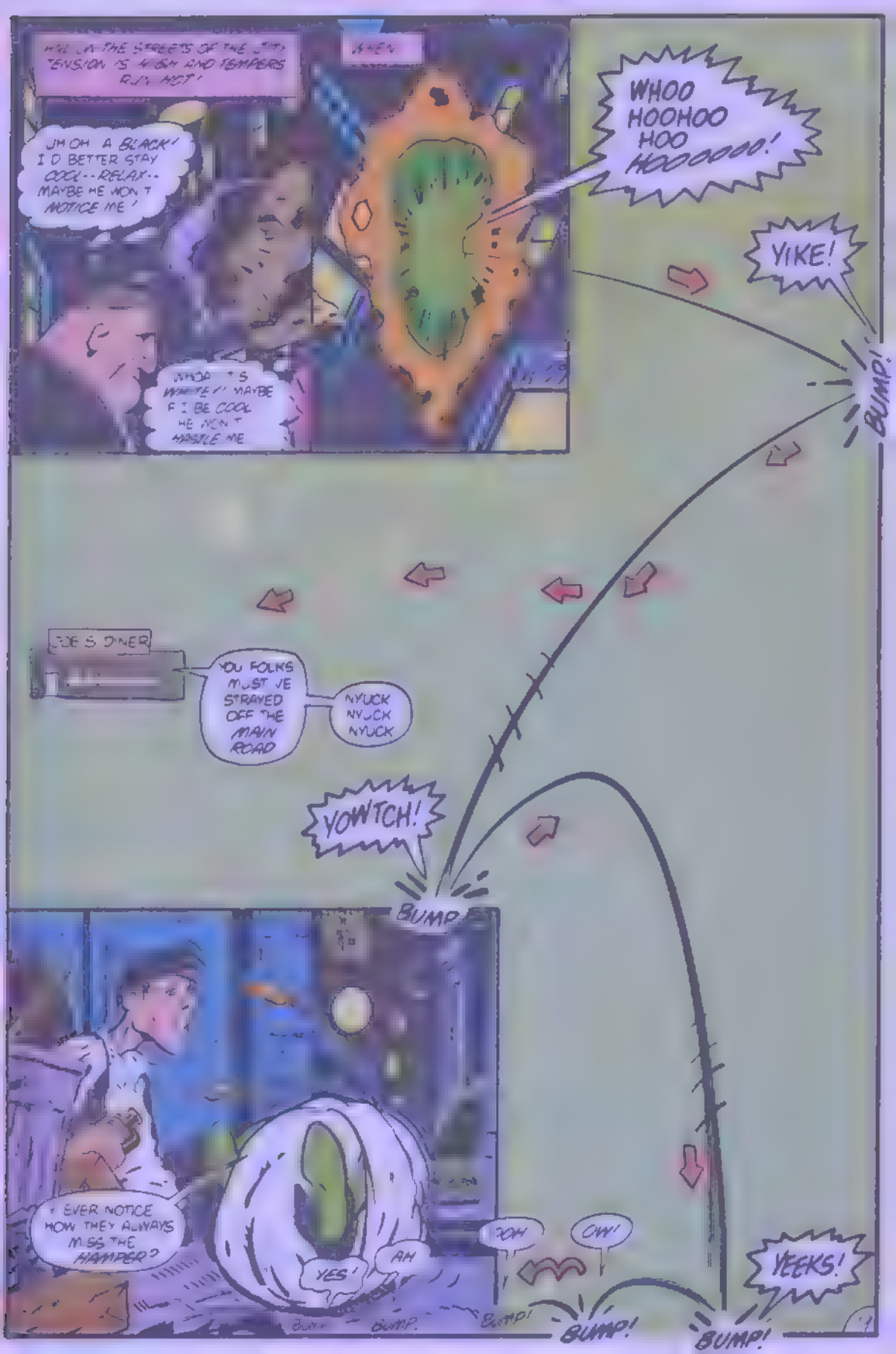

THE UNTOLD ORIGIN OF ARGHYLE!
A TINY ROCKETSHIP CARRIES ITS CARGO OF SUITS AND SLACKS AWAY FROM THE SUPPOSEDLY DOOMED PLANET SCHWAB
IT'S INTERCEPTED AND SMASHED BY A SOCK-LIKE ALIEN SPACE SPIDER!
IS THIS EDIBLE OR WHAT?
THE BRUNT OF THE WEIRD ALIEN ENERGY IS ABSORBED BY A PAIR OF ARGYLE SOCKS!
BUT AS THE ROCKET SHIP PLUMMETS TO EARTH, ALL THE SUITS AND SLACKS ARE KILLED
KA-POW
MAMIE!
IRWIN SCHWAB FINDS THE REMAINS OF THE ROCKET SHIP
HE SALVAGES ONE OF THE ARTSY BUSINESS UNIFORMS, IGNORING THE LITTLE, BEDRAPED SOCK! LIFE'S CRUEL, RIGHT?
THE SOCK IS LEFT TO CONTEMPLATE THE STARKLY NEW SURFACE ON WHICH IT FINDS ITSELF!
WHAT CHANGE?
I FEEL LIKE DANCING
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I CAN SEE!
SO THE LITTLE SOCK DECIDES TO SEARCH FOR IRWIN SCHWAB AND BE ADOPTED
I KNOW HE'LL LIKE ME WHEN HE GETS TO KNOW ME
BUT THE KID IS IN FOR A RUDE AWAKENING
THESE EARTH SOCKS THEY ALL COME IN PAIRS!!
CHOKE
HE'S ALL ALONE IN THE WORLD! HIS PARENTS ARE DEAD! HIS SISTER HATES HIM! HE HAS NO FRIENDS!
NO PAIRS!
5

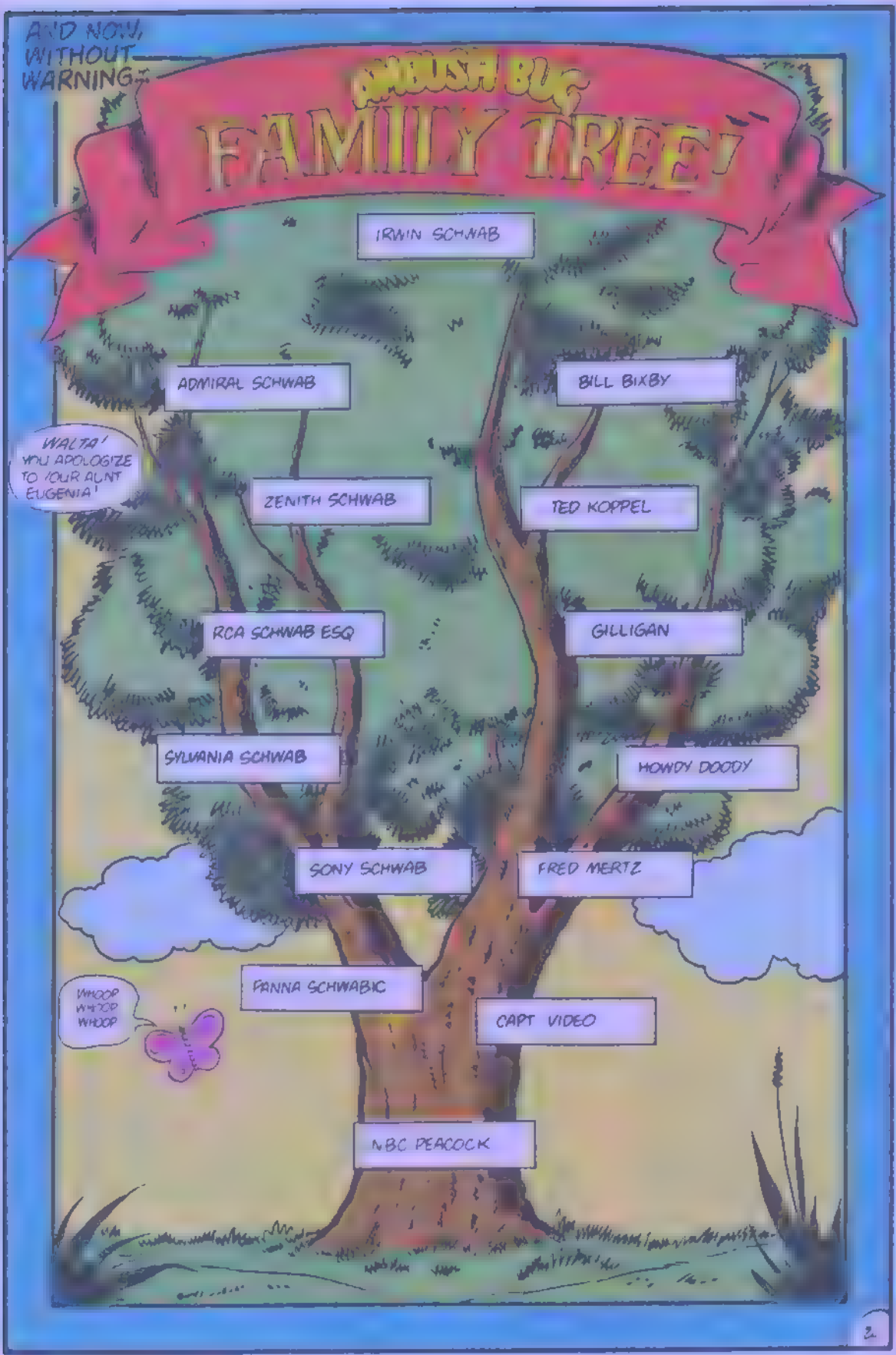
DIE ? NEVER ! I'LL BE BACK !
MEW
mm?
BAD--MIC--BAD OLD PUDDY--MIC'-PUDDY TAT ?
MEOW
RAAD
SORRY KIDS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
CRIIIIIPPP
SKRAAATCHHH!
SLAAAAAAASHH
APPLAPP! LARFLAP! FLAP!
OOOH I'M A WRECK! IS THERE A GRANDMOTHER IN THE HOUSE?
THE WORST OF IT IS I'M SOBER NOW
OOPS!
OOOH! WHAT'S THIS PLACE? A SECRET ABANDONED SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY?
YES IT WAS!
MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO MASTER THESE INCREDIBLY ADVANCED MACHINES IN MERE MINUTES AND USE THEM TO MEND MYSELF!
AND SO HE WAS
MAYBE I CAN FASHION A METAL MASK THAT WILL HIDE MY DISFIGUREMENT AND ENDOW ME WITH FANTASTIC POWERS!
AND HE DID!
MAYBE I CAN STEAL SOCKS FROM LAUNDROMATS AND BRING THEM TO LIFE!
NO PROBLEM!
AND THAT'S MY ORIGIN, FANBOY.
NOT THAT IT WAS ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS!
16

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

HAVE YOU LOCATED IRWIN SCHYSKI?
YES MASTER
THANKS TO THE TIP FROM HIS OWN SWEATSOCK WE HAVE PIN-POINTED HIM
SHALL WE KILL HIM?
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
I WANT HIM ALIVE ALIVE
IS THERE AN ECHO IN HERE?
THIS IS MISSION CONTROL WE HAVE LIFT-OFF REPEAT WE HAVE LIFT-OFF"
AW, POOP!
I'LL BET I'M THE ONLY SUPER-HERO THAT HAS TO DO HIS OWN LAUNDRY!
BRUCE WAYNE HAS ALFRED, WONDER WOMAN HAS ETTA CANDY, AND SUPEY HMMM.
I'LL BET HIS CLOTHES NEVER GET DIRTY!
GEE WHAT'S THAT?
--SMELL?
AIIIEEEEEEEE
NO!
GAG!
MY WORST NIGHTMARE HAS COME ALL TOO TRUE!!!

I AM ARGH!YLE!
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME, SCHWAB
BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU! YOU JILTED ME, SCHWAB ALL I WANTED WAS A LITTLE HUMAN COMPASSION!
UH... WELL... WHAT ARE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW?
MAYBE WE COULD GRAB A BEER
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT! IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, YOU'RE ABOUT TO TEST MY LATEST INVENTION!
THE BAULERUPITRON!!
GASP!
DON'T DO IT, ARGH!YLE!
DON'T... TURN... IT...
HEH HEH HEH
--UP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
8

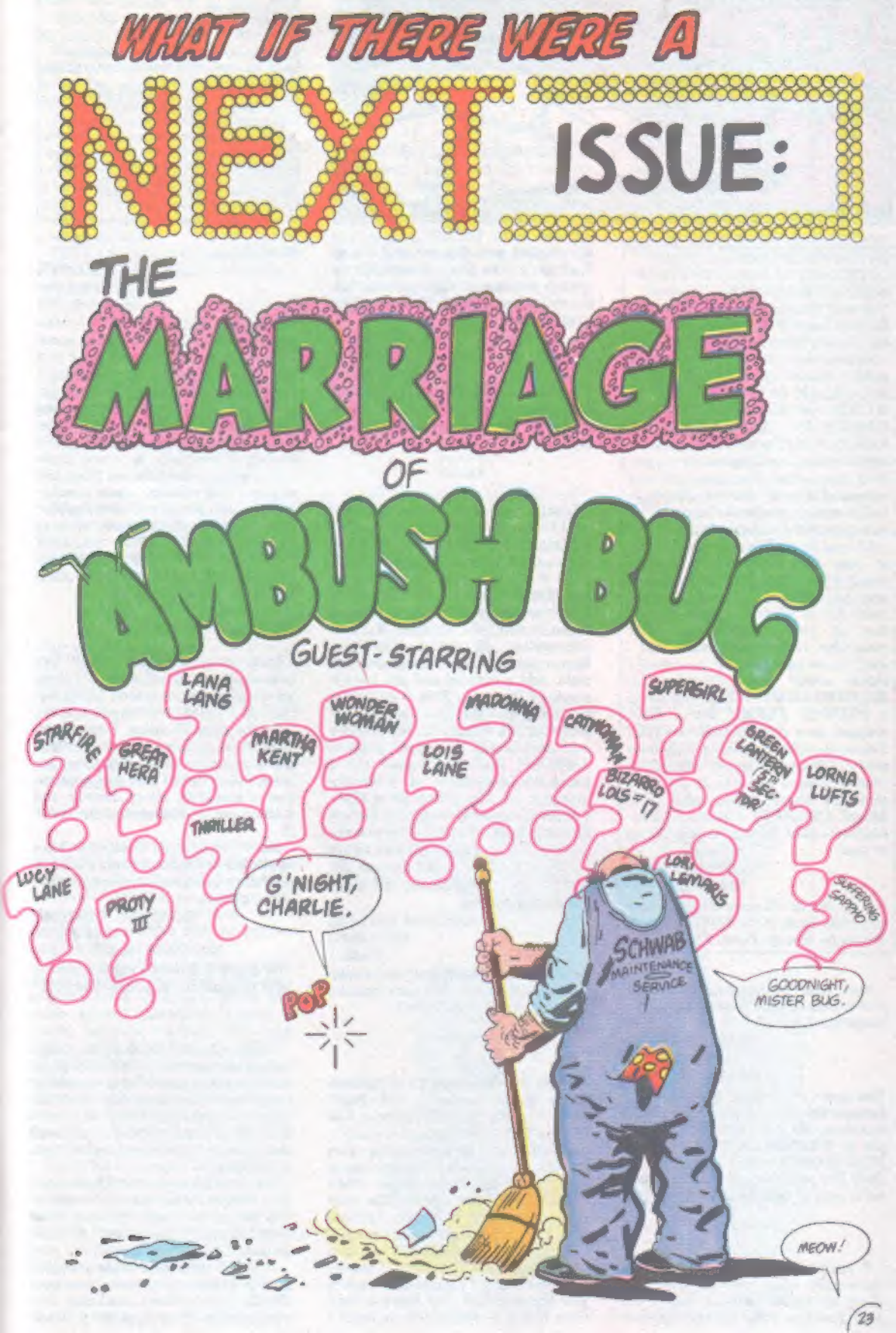

WELL IN THE STREETS OF THE BIG APPLE TENSION IS HIGH AND TEMPERS RUN HOT!
BANG
OH OH A BLACK! I'D BETTER STAY COOL--RELAX-- MAYBE HE WON'T NOTICE ME!
WHOA! IS HE WHITE?! MAYBE IF I BE COOL HE WON'T HASSLE ME
WHOO HOOHOO HOO HOOOOOO!
YIKE!
BUMP!
JOE'S DINER
YOU FOLKS MUST'VE STRAYED OFF THE MAIN ROAD
NYUCK NYUCK NYUCK
YOWTCH!
BUMP!
EVER NOTICE HOW THEY ALWAYS MISS THE HAMPER?
YES!
AH
OOH
OW!
BUMP!
BUMP!
BUMP!
YEEKS!

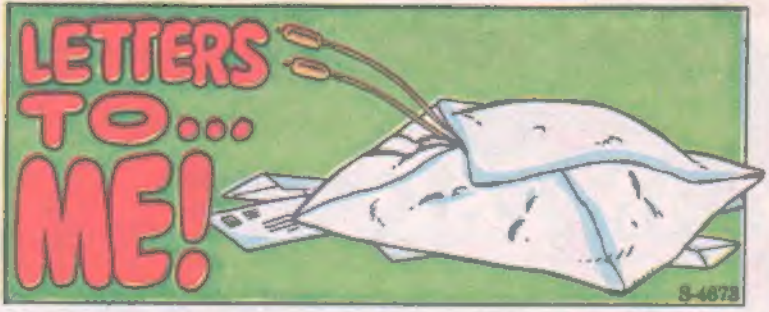

AND NOW, WITHOUT WARNING...
AMBUSH BUG
FAMILY TREE
IRWIN SCHWAB
ADMIRAL SCHWAB
BILL BIXBY
WALTA! YOU APOLOGIZE TO YOUR AUNT EUGENIA!
ZENITH SCHWAB
TED KOPPEL
RCA SCHWAB ESQ
GILLIGAN
SYLVANIA SCHWAB
HOWDY DOODY
SONY SCHWAB
FRED MERTZ
PANNA SCHWABIC
WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP
CAPT VIDEO
NBC PEACOCK

SPECIAL
BONUS PIN-UP PAGE!
ARE YOU SURE MARV SAID THIS WAS OKAY, MISTER BUG?
TRUST ME, SWEETHEART!
AND ARCH YOUR BACK! THAT'S IT!
21

ISN'T THIS A GREAT CAST PARTY?
SAY, I DON'T THINK I GOT YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER.
OH! HELLO! I'M GLAD YOU COULD COME!
THANKS TO YOU, MY MINI-SERIES WAS A MAJOR SUCCESS!
WHAT?
OH, HIM.
YES, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. WE'VE BEEN PROMISING YOU A "CLASH OF THE TITANS" FOR FOUR ISSUES NOW. WELL, THIS IS IT!
UP AND AT 'EM, DARKSEID! TIME TO GIVE THE FOLKS THEIR MONEY'S WORTH!
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME? WHY, YOU DIRTY DOG!
TAKE THAT!
PLINK!
PSSSSSS
THANKS, PAL. YOU BOUGHT ME AN EXTRA FIFTY THOUSAND SALES IN THE COMIC SHOPS!
YOU SAW IT! HE PULLED A KNIFE ON ME AND I HAD TO KILL HIM! SO THAT'S IT FOR "CLASH OF THE TITANS!"
BUT THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THE END FOR ME! IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE MORE ISSUES OF AMBUSH BUG, MAYBE EVEN A (DARE I HOPE?) REGULAR SERIES...
... FILL OUT A POSTCARD WITH YOUR COMMENTS AND MAIL IT TO:
BUG ME
% DC COMICS INC.
666 FIFTH AVE
N.Y.C., N.Y.
10103
AND REMEMBER...
... IT'S ALL UP TO YOU!
22

CONCLUDED ON 2 ☞ PAGE FOLLOWING


WHAT IF THERE WERE A
NEXT ISSUE:
THE MARRIAGE OF AMBUSH BUG
GUEST-STARRING
LANA LANG
STARFIRE
GREAT HERA
MARTHA KENT
WONDER WOMAN
MADONNA
LOIS LANE
CATWOMAN
SUPERGIRL
BIZARRO LOIS #17
GREEN LANTERN (5TH SEC. VER.)
LORNA LUFTS
THRILLER
LUCY LANE
PROTY III
LORI LEMARIS
SUFFERING SAPPHO
G'NIGHT, CHARLIE.
POP
SCHWAB MAINTENANCE SERVICE
GOODNIGHT, MISTER BUG.
MEOW!



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SAVEME!OHPLEASEGODDON'T LETMEDIE!'LLDOANYTHING ONLYLETMELIVE!!!

Ahem. Well, as I was saying, this is the last issue of my mini-series. The Big Finish. Clear out my space on the revolving rack and make room for the debut issue of TERRORTECH ROBOBLAM. Or THE UNHAPPY X-WIVES. Or the CALAMITY IN CLARK'S KITCHENETTE SPECIAL. But I'm not bitter. DC gave us four issues, and four issues we got. And now that I've insulted and alienated virtually every employee in this company, you're the last person I can appeal to for mercy and support.

Okay, I know I've poked a little fun at you, too. Well, all right, I've insulted you. Yes, yes, I did humiliate you, as well, but only—no, I never made fun of your—oh, right, I made fun of your mother, too. But remember, that doesn't mean that I don't value your friendship—what? I think what? Yes. Okay! *ALL RIGHT!!! I ADMIT IT!!! I think you're a* STUPID JERK!!! *But I don't wanna be a Forgotten Hero—SOB! You—you—choke!—just* gotta *save me!! I'll do* anything—ANYTHING! *Please,* please *wr`e in to DC! You won't be* sorry! *I just want ONE MORE CHANCE!! I know—blubber blubber!—that I could make it all* up *to you!*

Pitifully yours,
AMBUSH BUG

P.S. If it's at all possible, I'd like a monthly *book, in the RONIN format, drawn by George Pérez. Thanks!*

Now that I have laughed myself into a hernia, who is gonna pay the hospital bill?

BAD MANNERS
Box 5066 D.S.
Durham, NC 27706

You won't be needing surgery, B.D., because this issue should have you in stitches. HAWHAWHAW! Stitches, get it! HEEHEEHEE! Oh, my gut! HOHOHOHO! riiiip! YEOW!! Ow! Ooh! The pain! Hey, Editor Julie, toss me a copy of this issue, will you?

*****

I really like having you around. *Especially* when you go POP! and show up somewhere real fun. I am your first fan. I was born on Earth-5 My parents were the sun and a tree. Earth-5 is like that. Everybody is always turning up their guitars, but the violin has a scroll. Would you like to visit? Just POP! on by.

JAY AIRPLANE
3rd shelf
Kitchen Pantry
The Batcave of Earth-8

Why am I so sure that everybody's going to think I wrote this letter myself?

*****

I really hate having to write letters, but I had to. It seems that you weren't receiving my psychic messages. Now, on to what I thought of AMBUSH BUG #1. It was great! I laughed so hard I broke all of my furniture. This first issue in your four-issue limited series was stupid ... ummm ... I mean, *stupendous.* It had everything. Horror, comedy, drama, and commercials. Add a scandal and you have a movie of the week. This is not just a letter of praise, it is also a letter to tell you that I'm suing you. My analyst said that seeing the splash page of AMBUSH BUG #1 caused me a traumatic experience of indescribable size. All I'm asking for is $100,000,000,000 or an issue of your fantastic comic book. Thank you very much.

DONALD HOLMAN
4021 Bonner Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21216

Now residing at:
ARKHAM ASYLUM
Suite 33AC
Earth-1

How about the issue that you're holding in your hands this very minute, Donald? We're even, right?

*****

I just finished issue #1 of Ambush Bug's limited series ... the Bug's crazy! The Toy Wonder? Anyway, Cat O'Nine Tails Head has got it made ... give him a star on his dressing room door. I *tell* you, he's gonna be bigger than that Marvelite spider. He's funnier than the Joker! The only thing missing is a female Ambush Bug. Can you imagine old "Greenie" as a father? It's really too bad that some comics aren't published *weekly* (like the Bug's, f'r'instance). What're you waiting for? The Bug's a star! Give him 2 or 3 titles. Do ya think I liked it?

T. TURCOTTE
18 Farm Lane
Seabrook, NH

But did you really *like it, T? I think your idea for a weekly comic is excellent, as is your suggestion for 2 or 3 titles starring me. My one reservation is that I'd hate to flood the market with product, thereby hurting the direct sales distributors and, especially, those retailers who are hard-pressed financially to stock those titles that are currently out. I love and respect those retailers, those wonderful guys and gals of the cash register, and I'd like to dedicate this issue to them. RETAILERS!! I SALUTE YOU!!! STOP BY WHEN YOU ARE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND WE WILL DO LUNCH!!!!*

*****

Now you've gone and done it! I've been reading and collecting DC Comics for 25 years, yet it took AMBUSH BUG #1 for me to write my first letter.

In the past 25 years, I have seen some great comics, enjoyable comics, and certainly, classic comics, but never before have I seen such a collection of stupidity, idiocy, lunacy, and foolishness. I abbbsssollutellly loved it.

Mr. Giffen and Company have applied their brand of comic genius to my funny bone, and boy does it tickle. More, please.

ROBERT J. KRYSIAK
78-11 270 St.
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

You've got it, Robert. I'm glad that my book appeals to old people like you!

*****

I have started finishing your recent book of comics called AMBUSH BUG, and I must say that I am in-raged and out-censed! How dare you treat the time-torn cliché of the faithful, youthful sidekick in such a shabby manner? Don't you have any manners? You are all shabby.

It is obvious to me that Cheeks, the Toy Wonder, was clearly the star of this title, and would very soon have overshadowed the rather dubious exploits of the title bug.

It is also apparent to me that this bug in question purposely sent poor Cheeks to his doom, realizing this very opinion. What does it say for our

hero? Not much, but a hero ain't nothing but a sandwich after all. Bug on rye, no mayo.

Your treatment of Cheeks is rather sad in a way, for it tells me of your fears. Yes, your fears. Of whom? Of the toy industry, of course!

Kids buy more dolls than buy comics! You are afraid, so you have devised a plan to kill off all the toys being marketed today. Cheeks is but a grim foreshadowing of devastation to come. You are all degenerate slime.

You belong ground under the heel of a worm farmer.

OOOOOH, you make me mad!

Today, Cheeks. Who is to be next, I ask you? Who?!

C. PATCH
Millionaire's Row
Beverly Hills, CA

Just to prove how wrong you really are, C.P., we'd like to invite you to guest-star in the very next story we do. Oh, yes ... and don't tell anyone that you're coming here. We'd like to keep it a surprise. (Heh heh heh!)

*****

Excellent! Wonderful! Best comic ever! Go Ambush Bug! Go! Go! Go! Yeah for Ambush Bug! Colossal! Stupendous! Amazing! #1 Comic! And it was good, too.

SUPER KLUTZ
5833 Forest Hill Rd.
Elkridge, MD 21227

*Your praise would mean a lot more if you were nicknamed SUPER-CRITIC, but yeah, thanks, it's still appreciated. But—hey!—watch out for that LADDER! Ooh, too late. OH! Look where you're GOING! You're headed for the—you!—*CORN THRASHER! *UGH! I hate when THAT happens!*

*****

After years of reading DC comics, this first issue has finally gotten me to write to you. By the way, since A.B. is on Earth-1, and this magazine and its staff are on Earth-Prime, what mechanism enables him to receive and answer "his" letters?

Since no amount of prose can adequately describe this issue, I will stick to some other comments. Since The Joker enjoyed this (Earth-1) issue so much, imagine Ambush Bug and Joker with Superman in DCCP, ACTION, or SUPERMAN. Likewise, if there is an Earth-2 Ambush Bug (Earth-2 Edition), what about seeing him in INFINITY, INC. (along with the Earth-2 Superman, and their counterparts on Earth-1).

I have a final request before closing. I have had an ongoing argument with another DC reader. He suggests that when the "multiverse" collapses, only Ambush Bug should survive. You can pass this idea on to Marv and Len, but do not let them even consider it.

RONALD D. HELD
969 Penn Circle
King of Prussia, PA 29406

Well, what's wrong with that *idea?? I think it's very* creative! *Also, it would go a long way toward solving that problem of glutted newsstands! Julie! Keith! Flem! Let's call a* meeting!!

*****

What can I say, AMBUSH BUG #1 was great! I loved it! I can't wait for the rest of the series. This is the first time I've ever written a comic about anything, but I just couldn't let this one pass. AMBUSH BUG was the first "comic" comic that I liked very much at all. I laughed out loud! Keep the series going beyond four issues, please!

MATTHEW E. FOX
24719 Winona
Dearborn, MI 48124

Bless you, Matt! (Watch the DC proofreader come along and get offended by this line on religious grounds and change it to "Gesundheit, Matt!")

*****

WOW! I want it! Do you hear me? I want it *all!* Everything that you have that has the AMBUSH BUG OFFICIAL DESIGNATION! It's hot! It's Now! It's available! Send it to me right away!

I bought 23 copies of AMBUSH BUG #1! (Or was that 1 copy of AMBUSH BUG #23?) It doesn't matter! Marketing headsets of the Ambush Bug's antennae is something you guys didn't even mention, though I would buy thousands of them, since I buy everything that has the AMBUSH BUG OFFICIAL DESIGNATION! I bought 23 copies of AMBUSH BUG #1! (Or was that...)

You have no idea what reading a strange, warped, satirical parody does to a person! (Or maybe you do! You wrote/penciled/inked/colored/lettered/edited/published it! ((Oh, no! I'm caught in a double parentheses! I hate when *this* happens!)) The Cover! The Splash Page! The Republicans masquerading as cartoon characters! Who could tell the difference anyway, right?)

Someone must have read a lot of comics when they were younger (Super-Turtle? Little Bug? The ads? The Letters page?) I'm telling you, you have no idea what reading a strange, warped, satirical parody does to a person!

I better quit while I'm ahead.

DAVID E. ROMM
3135 17th Ave. S
Minneapolis, MN 55407

P.S. Why do you guys always put your names at the end? The credits are my favorite part of any movie and I have to read the whole darned thing just to get to them to see if it'll be worth reading!

Yes, that's why they do it, marvelous Dave. By the way, are you related to—no, forget it.

THE MASKS ARE OFF--
BUT THE EXCITEMENT GOES ON FOREVER!
INFINITY INC.
by ROY THOMAS, TODD McFARLANE, and TONY DeZUNIGA
DELUXE FORMAT-- AT SELECTED OUTLETS